

# GLORIOUS NEWS!

## PHIL SHERIDAN AGAIN AT WORK

### The Reported Defeat and Capture of Early.

## THE FALL OF CHARLOTTESVILLE.

## LEE AND GRANT PLAYING FOR LYNCHBURG.

### The News Confirmed by Rebel Deserter.

## GENERAL GRANT'S OFFICIAL DISPATCHES.

### WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, March 5, 1865.

To Maj.-Gen. DIX: The following dispatches in relation to the reported defeat and capture of Gen. Early by Sheridan, and the capture of Charlottesville, have been received by this Department. Gen. Sheridan and his force commenced their movement last Monday, and were at Stanton when last heard from. Maj.-Gen. Hancock was placed in charge of the Middle Military Division during the absence of Gen. Sheridan, headquarters at Winchester.

E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

CITY POINT, Va., March 5-11 a. m.

"Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War: Deserter in this morning report that Sheridan had routed Early and captured Charlottesville. They report four regiments having gone from here (Richmond) to reinforce Early.

U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-Gen.

CITY POINT, Va., March 5-2 a. m.

"Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War: Deserter from every point of the enemy's line confirm the capture of Charlottesville by Gen. Sheridan. They say he captured Early and nearly his entire force, consisting of 1,800 men. Four brigades were reported as being sent to Lynchburg, to get there before Gen. Sheridan, if possible.

U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-Gen.

CITY POINT, Va., March 5-1 p. m.

"Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War: Refugees confirm the statement of deserters as to the capture of Gen. Early and nearly his entire force. They say it took place on Thursday last, between Stanton and Charlottesville, and that the defeat was total.

U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-Gen.

## FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

HQ. ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Friday, March 3, 1865.

NO NEWS.

Nothing of importance is transpiring in this Department.

## DESERTERS.

Deserters continue to come into our lines in large numbers, 36 having arrived to-day, nearly all bringing their guns and equipments with them, for which they are to be paid. The number of muskets received from deserters since February 22, is 240, all of them in good order.

## THEIR STORIES.

In addition to the usual stories told by these men, they say that two companies from each regiment of several brigades have been detailed from the army defending Petersburg, and sent to hunt up deserters, thousands of whom are said to be scattered through the country, endeavoring to reach their homes. This is particularly the case with the North and South Carolina troops, who are all sick and tired of the contest, and anxious to join their families, now within our lines. These men are principally veterans of three and four years' service, and many of them are those lately exchanged. All of them being refused furloughs and not paid for a long time, any prospect of getting any soon, they took "French leave."

## A CORPORAL'S GUARD.

A few days ago a sergeant was sent out in charge of a team and six men to get wood. The men were unarmed. The sergeant was armed with a revolver and a sword. After getting outside the lines, the men apparently ran away, but the sergeant guarded them straight for our lines, and the whole party arrived safely. They received for the mules \$700, which was divided equally.

## ELOQUENCE AND WHISKY.

The cheering among the Rebels on Wednesday evening was on account of their receiving a ration of whisky, which seems to be quite a rarity in their commissary Department. Gen. Cook, commanding a brigade in Gen. Heth's division, is said to have benighted his men on the occasion, while greatly intoxicated.

## DESERTERS SHOT.

Anthony Raymond of Company B, and Newell J. Jangle of Company H, of the Sixty-fourth New York Volunteers, were shot to-day for attempting to desert to the enemy. Five regiments of the First Division of the Second Corps, to which the criminals belonged, were assembled to witness the execution, the details of which were in charge of the Provost-Marshal of the Division.

## AN ARRIVAL.

The Ninety-first New York Volunteers, a veteran regiment, arrived at the front to-day, and were assigned to the Third Division of the Corps. They numbered about 600 men, and presented a splendid appearance.

## FROM WILMINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1865.

Your correspondent "E. S." at Wilmington, N. C., sends the following, dated Feb. 28:

## EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

Eight hundred Union prisoners came down the river yesterday on boats. Others able to march are following. Cooked rations and sanitary supplies await them. These are prisoners from battles in all parts of the country, and come from all the great prisons in the South.

## THEIR CONDITION.

The condition of those arrived is most sad. Emaciated, sick, starved, naked, there are not enough supplies at Wilmington to relieve their wants, but fresh cargoes are hourly expected.

## A GENERAL ORDER.

For the government of the Department Gen. Schofield has issued GENERAL ORDER No. 1. Provost Marshals in this Department will administer the oath of allegiance to such persons as come within the provisions of the Amnesty proclamation of the President of the United States, provided they are satisfied that such persons desire, of good faith, aid in restoring the National authority, and that they take the oath of allegiance cheerfully and voluntarily.

## REPORTS TO BE MADE.

It is reported to be made weekly to the Provost-Marshal General, giving the name, age and portion of the oath of allegiance; also, of all other adult white persons residing within the jurisdiction of each provost-marshal, together with such information as can be obtained touching the character of each individual.

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# New-York Tribune.

Vol. XXIV, No. 7,461.

NEW-YORK, MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1865.

PRICE FOUR CENTS.

The Government of the United States, shall be sent beyond the lines of the army by an order from the Provost-Marshal-General, brought before a military commission for trial and punishment, according to the nature of the offense.

**MILITARY COMMISSIONS.**  
IV. Officers authorized by law to appoint General Courts-Martial are empowered to appoint Military Commissions, and to confirm and execute the sentences of such Commissions, with the same limitations as in the case of General Courts-Martial.

**COMMERCIAL INTERCOURSE.**  
V. Commercial intercourse within the limits of the Department will be governed strictly by the laws of the United States and the regulations of the Treasury Department, and will be limited to that which may be necessary to supply the wants of the loyal people residing within the lines of military occupation and persons in the employ of the Government. None but persons of undoubted loyalty and good character will be permitted to trade within the limits of the Department.

**TRADE WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD.**  
VI. Intercourse between towns occupied by the army and the surrounding country, within the lines of military occupation, will be permitted under regulations to be established by the Provost-Marshal-General, for the purpose of enabling the inhabitants to supply themselves with the necessities of life.

**THE SALE OF PAID PRODUCTS.**  
VII. The loyal people of the country, residing within the lines of the army, will be permitted to bring freely to market the products of their farms, and to receive in payment the currency of the United States. They will also be permitted to purchase family supplies from persons authorized to trade, upon permits granted by the local Provost-Marshal.

**RAILROADS AND TELEGRAPHS.**  
VIII. Railroads and telegraphs lines are under special military protection. Any person who shall break, injure, or in any manner interfere with their military use, or shall fire into any railroad train, or any vessel navigating the waters of this Department, shall be punished with death, or otherwise, at the discretion of a military commission.

**THE RESTORATION OF PROPERTY.**  
IX. The destruction of property, public or private, is a waste of the national wealth, and alike injurious to the people and the Government. It is therefore to be avoided, except where military operations render it necessary. The high commander present must alone be the judge of such necessity.

**VEGETABLES FOR THE TROOPS.**  
X. The troops will be supplied with such of the products of the country, especially vegetables, as are necessary for their health and comfort. This must be done by the proper staff officers, acting under the orders of the division and brigade commanders.

## STRAUHLING.

XI. Straggling and idling, or loitering by individuals, are prohibited, and will be severely punished.

## LATE REBEL NEWS.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1865.

## A NEWS FAMINE.

Richmond papers of Friday, March 3, are received at the Washington office, but are more barren of news than usual. There is no late news from either Sherman or Sheridan, except as to the former the Raleigh Conservative has some speculations. It alludes to Sherman's operations, and indulges in the hope that, if the Rebel plans are not thwarted, their skillful General and brave troops in that quarter will be able to "hog" him, or send him howling to the rear.

## REPORTED EXPULSION FROM COLUMBIA.

If the report brought us by telegraph that the small force left by Sherman at Columbia has been expelled, be true, then the rebel in front should suffer such a wound as would render his affairs desperate in the extreme. But we will not speculate further in regard to affairs which must soon cease to be matters for mere speculation.

**EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.**  
The following is from The Raleigh Progress of the 26th: "The Yankee prisoners have all been sent from the camps near this place to the North-East Bridge for the purpose of being exchanged. Many others from Greensborough and Salisbury have passed through here for the same destination. All Federal prisoners we have in North Carolina are to be exchanged at North-East Bridge, a few miles from Wilmington. We presume the exchange will be completed in a few days."

## FROM NEW-ORLEANS.

Naval Attack on Mobile—Good News Expected.

NEW-ORLEANS, Friday, Feb. 23, 1865.

It is reported that Gen. Canby will leave for Mobile to-day. He is master of the situation, and good reports may soon be expected from him.

The fleet is there, under Commodore Palmer, hard at work.

Yesterday was observed as a holiday. Several thousand colored school children, and a number of public functionaries, including Gov. Hahn, participated in the ceremonies.

Cotton has a fair demand, ranging from 60c. to 70c. Gold, 202 1/2 to 204. Sailing vessels are taking four at New York and Boston for \$20,000. \$4 bill.

CAIRO, Ill., Saturday, March 4, 1865.

New-Orleans dates of the 25th ultimo say that the schooner Jane Ludlow, reported lost off the mouth of the Rio Grande, had arrived safely.

A railroad has been constructed from the depot of the Jackson road to the Mississippi River for military purposes, which will prove of great advantage in the transportation of troops and supplies.

Gen. Canby had returned to New-Orleans from a visit of inspection to Mobile Bay and the adjacent points.

Commodore Palmer's fleet is in complete order, and ready to commence the attack upon Mobile at any moment.

A garden for the cultivation of vegetables has been established at each post in Gen. Canby's Department.

The health of the troops at the various posts is good. The steamer Empire City, reported wrecked off Curry Point Reef, got off and arrived at New-Orleans.

Cotton ranged at New Orleans from 65 to 69 cents for good ordinary to strict middling. The business was limited, owing to unfavorable weather. Middling sugar ranged from 22 to 23 and 24 cents for fair to prime. Molasses, \$1 25 to \$1 27 per gallon.

Three cargoes of sugar and molasses had arrived from Cuba at New-Orleans.

## FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.

What the Rebel Forces Claim to Have Accomplished—The Mississippi River—The Rebel Intention.

CAIRO, Friday, March 3, 1865.

The Jackson (Miss.) papers of the 15th ult., contain an address of the Rebel Gen. Forest to his troops recounting the result of his operations during the past year. He says that he has fought fifty battles, killed about 100,000 of the enemy, captured 2,000, and taken 100,000 of their arms, 14 transports, 30 barges, 300 wagons, 50 ambulances, 105 tons of arms, 400 block houses, destroyed 36 railroad bridges, 2,000 miles of railroad, 6 locomotives, and 100 cars—amounting to \$15,000,000 of property.

In accomplishing this he admits they were occasioned by sustained by other troops, but says, their regular number never exceeded 5,000. 2,000 had been killed or wounded and 2,000 taken prisoners.

He tells them to prepare for renewed actions and warns them against being lulled by any signs of peace, for there can be no peace save upon their separate independent nationality.

The river is still rapidly rising here. Much of the lower lands, between Cairo, Mound City and portions of the latter place, are submerged, interfering with operations on ships and navy yard.

The Hon. F. C. Collier, Assistant Special Agent of the Transportation Department at Memphis, has been appointed Supervisor and Special Agent for the First Special Agency, comprising that part of the Mississippi Valley lying west of the Alleghany Mountains, east of the mouth of the Tennessee, and extending south to such parts of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia as are or shall be occupied by the national forces. Mr. Collier is in command of all the Rebel military prisoners in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. Great severity of breadstuffs is said to exist. Roddy's division has been breaking up districts as that grain may

be procured by suffering families and soldiers. Whisky is regarded as a worse enemy than the Yankees.

Gen. Wirt Adams has ordered all guns and cotton on the Big Black River to be removed.

**Inundation at Nashville.**  
NASHVILLE, Tenn., Saturday, March 4, 1865.

The heavy rains for the past three days have caused a great rise in the river, which is over its banks. The city is entirely surrounded by water, and the lower part of it is completely submerged.

On the railroad running south much damage has been done by the washing away of bridges.

The trestle bridge over Stone River, near Marfreesboro, has been swept away; also the one at Franklin. There is no interruption as yet on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

The river rose seven feet yesterday and last night, and it is still rising.

Much damage has been done to property in the vicinity of the flood.

It is believed that the flood will be the greatest ever known.

Two soldiers of the Ninth Indiana were drowned yesterday, in Edgefield.

## EXAMINATION OF THE EXCHANGE QUESTION.

**Citizen-Prisoners in Rebeldom—Their Unjust Treatment by the Government.**

For The N. Y. Tribune.

That loyal citizens of the North and South have been or are held to any extent by the Rebels, seems to be a fact of which the public and even officials in both sections are oblivious, and to which they are all indifferent. Nothing singular in this, for the number of Northern and Southern citizens combined so far as I have had any means of ascertaining by twenty months of close confinement in Secession, does not at present exceed a few hundreds. Many of them have died, and a few who had means have by employing attorneys, or bribing officials, succeeded in obtaining their release.

For the remainder, however, there is no hope in spite of what has been promised in their behalf by parties in authority from time to time, and of a semi-official statement made within a few days that an arrangement had been completed for their deliverance.

Here let me take occasion to say that the relatives and friends of prisoners in the South, who place any confidence in the dispatches and letters sent from Washington, even though they come from men in power and position, must be more largely blessed with faith than reason. Again, and again, and again has the story been told, circulated and believed, that a general exchange of our prisoners would soon be made. From May 30, 1863, when the cartel was interrupted, to the present, this statement has been put forth, usually just before a draft, or when it was necessary to stifle the natural clamors of the people. And to serve this very purpose, some hundreds, and once or twice some thousands, usually the sick and wounded, have been exchanged by a special arrangement. But nothing like a general exchange has been begun, and I am free to say, in my judgment, was ever contemplated at Washington.

Since my escape I have made diligent inquiry in military and civil circles, all the way from Knoxville to Washington, where, in conjunction with my confederate, Mr. Richardson, I spent nearly a week endeavoring to learn who was responsible for the fact that our thirty or forty thousand prisoners are neither exchanged nor relieved from the barbarities practiced upon them by the enemy by a prompt and vigorous retaliation, and all the information I have been able to gather on the subject puts the dreadful responsibility upon Mr. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War.

Of course the Rebels and they alone must bear the odium justly excited throughout the world of treating their captives with unrepentant and needless cruelty. That it lay in the power of our authorities to exchange them, whether with or without some sacrifice of principle, is no excuse for the enemy; he cannot avoid the issue; he stands convicted of the charge by overwhelming evidence, and ages and nations will condemn him with a unanimous voice.

The question is, when the Rebels agreed to exchange man for man, leaving a large excess of captives in our hands, and the determination of mooted points for future consideration, who prevented the exchange and why? If there were good and sufficient reasons that the arrangement should not be made—as I believe some of the friends of Mr. Stanton claim—why were not those reasons given? Why was the country kept in ignorance when it had the right to know?

For the refusal to exchange, and for the darkness that enshrouds the entire question of the exchange, we are, to the best of my information, indebted to the Secretary of War. It is, I have understood, his settled conviction not to exchange at all; that we can far better afford to do without our prisoners than the Southerners can without theirs, and that our best policy is to retain all our captives and let the foe retain all of his until the end of the war.

Regarding outside of the light of humanity, I think this view correct and wise; but when the Secretary gives, as has been alleged, as one of his reasons that the time of many of our soldiers held in the South has expired, while those in our hands are enlisted for the war, there must be few who will not be shocked at the gross injustice done to our brave defenders, and at the entire cold bloodedness of the man capable of arriving at such a conclusion.

In great struggles, in all national affairs, individuals are ever made to yield to principles; and war, too, is so much and so necessarily a barbarism, that it may seem sentimental to some to talk of our freeing and suffering hundreds when hundreds and thousands of them are swept every month into the tomb by the necessary accidents of the mighty contest.

Not without a certain speciousness in this view, but the enlightened opinion of war is that there be no unnecessary suffering, and that what cannot be avoided be mitigated as far as possible.

When the exchange of man for man was proposed there was no valid reason given why it should not have been accepted, and at least 10,000 lives thus have been saved to the Republic.

What we want, what the country demands, and the relatives and friends of the Union prisoners will have, is that the questions at issue between the Government and the Rebels be fairly stated, that, if those near and dear to them are to be held, the reason of their detention be given fully and candidly.

Let us have no more double-dealing, chicanery and false promising. Let the Secretary of War tell us what he intends, and what he will do, and the reasons, so far as prudent, for his course of conduct. We have had far more than enough of trickery and shuffling and chicanery. We want facts, figures and open avowal of motives, whatever they may be.

To return to the citizens who have been held since the interruption of the cartel, to use the absurd phrase of the Richmond authorities, as "general hostages for the good conduct of the Government." They have no prospect of release even in the event of a general exchange, for they are not mentioned in the cartel; and their number is so small, and they so unimportant, that it is not probable public or official attention will be directed to them.

Not the Rebels themselves, not even Commissioner Robert Ould—whose falsity is equalled only by his perfidy, his miserable petting and his contemptible hypocrisy—pretend to have any charge against the Northern citizens—the Southern they accuse of "disloyalty" to the so-called "Confederacy." The Rebels simply hold them as a measure of retaliation for, as they allege, innocent Southern citizens in Northern battles. They declare they will not release the handful of civilians in their possession until all the Southern citizens are liberated, and until Government agrees not to arrest any more.

Here is a fair specimen of the assurance of our foes. They are entirely aware that there are no citizens, properly speaking, in the insurgent districts; that they all belong to some military organization, and that when taken they therefore become legitimate prisoners of war. The idea, too, of inducing the Government to such a course, supposing it possible for a moment, by holding a hundred men without social position, or political or personal influence of any kind.

The sole hope the civilian captives have is in the arrest and close confinement of Southerners as hostages for them. I understand that we do not hold any persons without charges, but if we did, it would be merely an offset for those the enemy retains. If we have not Southern citizens of importance enough to compel the Richmond authorities to give up our civilians, let us arrest them, as we readily can do, since ours are the invading armies and the occupants of their territory.

As I have said, the civilian prisoners held in the South are poor and unimportant, but is that any reason they should not be protected? It would seem so from the fact that during my captivity not less than five or six hundred Rebel citizens, many of them of high social position and much political distinction, were released and sent South without any equivalent being asked by the Government. This thing continues regularly. Every week or two prominent Southerners who have been captured by some of our Generals are sent home unconditionally. And yet the poor fellows freed before and starting at Salisbury—most of them confined there, I believe—are constantly told by the Rebel authorities they are held because their Government refuses to release Southerners against whom there are no charges.

Would not this vex a saint? Is not this continued course enough to turn the most earnest patriot from his loyalty?

It may be thought the Government does not know that its citizens are pining and dying in hostile prisons. But it does know the fact, which has been again and again presented to the President, the Secretary of War, the Commissioner of Exchange, and others; and they have been urged to hold hostages for the captured civilians; and they have promised to do something, and have done nothing.

The Northern citizens are earnest, devoted loyalists, and the Southern civilians deserve more credit for their Unionism since they have suffered much, and braved danger and death for it. Both are willing to endure trials, and make sacrifices for the cause; but they cannot understand why the Government, through gross indifference or culpable neglect, allows them to remain in odious bondage, month after month, and season after season, without making an effort for their release; why it should continue to release Southern prisoners, for whom they would be exchanged, without even asking an equivalent.

One of the first paragraphs that met my eye after reaching Knoxville, Tenn., was to the effect that Mr. M. — and several other prominent citizens, who had been arrested by Gen. Sheridan in the Valley and confined in the Old Capitol at Washington, had been released and sent home. Was any one given for them? Was any one asked for them? Of course not. Our generous and magnanimous Government is indisposed to see Secessionists in its prisons which are paradisaical to those of the South, and so graciously gives them their freedom; but permits devoted patriots, who would have been exchanged for the liberated Rebels, to perish in loathsome dens.

Is not this shameful and beyond all palliation? Remember, too, it has not happened once or twice, but many times—is periodically repeated; while the unfortunate civilians at the Salisbury Penitentiary are told by Commissioner Ould, with insufferable hypocrisy, that he very much regrets holding them, but that the barbarity of our Government compels him to do so.

"The barbarity of our Government," truly enough; but not as Ould has applied the phrase. Its barbarity is manifested, not toward the Rebels who deserve such kind treatment at its hands, but toward its own loyal citizens.

If the Secretary of War is determined not to ask even for the few Northern civilians in Rebel hands, he certainly ought to make some demand for the Southern Union men. They have borne up against the torrent of Secessionism from the beginning; they have been persecuted and threatened; have lost property, and endured untold suffering on account of their attachment to the old flag; and really deserve a better fate than to rot in loathsome dens when their release might be secured by very little trouble and the observation of common justice.

The experiment of holding hostages for Southern Unionists has been tried with success. Although Ould has always sworn he would not release any "Confederate" citizens; that the Government had no right to demand them; that the "Confederacy" would not be dictated to in respect to its own people, and all that gasconading rubbish for which the Rebels, and their Commissioner especially, are notorious—the arrest of a few prominent Secessionists, within or near our lines, and their close confinement, has had the effect of bringing him to terms very speedily.

My feelings have been deeply interested in, and my sympathies largely excited in behalf of the Northern and Southern citizen prisoners, whose captivity I shared in Castle Thunder and the Salisbury Penitentiary. They are, as I have mentioned, mostly poor men, with large families dependent on them. They have been treated sometimes with barbarous cruelty, as in the Libby prison, where they were not permitted to purchase anything, and were so nearly starved that they often could not stand up long enough for recall. Many of them have died, leaving their families dependent upon the cold charities of the world; and they will all die, unless they are released at an early day, for their situation constantly grows worse, and their capacity to endure diminishes.

That an arrangement had been made for the exchange of civilian as well as other prisoners, I read only a few days ago in the public journals. I read it, and my cheek burned with indignation that another of those base attempts to deceive the people should be made. I have no faith in the announcement; and moreover I do not imagine for a moment that Secretary Stanton, or President Lincoln, or Gen. Halleck, or Gen. Grant, or whoever caused it to be made public, believed the statement.

A partial exchange may be made, just enough to hoodwink the people; but more will die in the next month, in my opinion, than will be released. The draft is coming off—something must be done to remove from the public mind the horror, worse than death, of hopeless captivity and slow torture; and so the old of a general exchange is put off upon the much-abused country.

Is this honorable; is it honest; is it decent?

When a great Government like ours deems it necessary to enjoin the people, to cram them with false promises, to insult their judgment with oft-repeated falsehoods, there must be some weak and wicked men managing its affairs.

The loyal people of the Republic are not children nor fools. They can bear to be fairly dealt with; they can comprehend matters of policy as well as of justice.

Let us have no more double-dealing, chicanery and false promising. Let the Secretary of War tell us what he intends, and what he will do, and the reasons, so far as prudent, for his course of conduct. We have had far more than enough of trickery and shuffling and chicanery. We want facts, figures and open avowal of motives, whatever they may be.

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